

FACT SHEET

Lead-Based Paint and Management-in-Place



After lead-based paint (LBP) has been found in a residence, it is especially important to routinely use cleaning procedures that will minimize the risk of exposure to accumulated lead-contaminated dust. Painted surfaces that contain lead but are kept in good condition may release little or no lead and present a low risk of lead exposure. Exposure risks to lead-contaminated dust increase whenever LBP surfaces are disturbed in any way. Window sills, stools, and troughs are likely areas for this type of dust accumulation. Since exterior lead-contaminated dust may also be tracked into and accumulate on and around residential entry ways, clean or remove shoes before entering your home.

The recommended housekeeping procedure is periodic damp wiping or wet cleaning of areas such as those mentioned above. Horizontal surfaces such as floors and stairs where children frequently play should also receive special attention. If residents have access to HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) vacuum equipment, its periodic use is strongly recommended. This cleaning should be done at least weekly, and more often in areas frequented by children. Gloves should be worn to keep dust off the skin. After cleaning is completed, thoroughly rinse sponges and mops.

The following table contains recommended cleaning methods as well as those methods that should be avoided.

SURFACE TO BE CLEANED	RECOMMENDED METHOD	AVOID:
FLOORS	Damp or Wet Mopping Standard "sponge" or "string" type mops and powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent, trisodium phosphate detergent, or lead-specific cleaning products Standard vacuum cleaners with increased efficiency vacuum cleaner bags if no visible LBP dust or debris is observed	Mops with a scrubber strip attached Powered buffing or polishing equipment Vacuums with beater bars that may abrade the painted surface
CARPETS AND RUGS	Wet scrubbing methods to remove stains Steam cleaning methods Standard vacuum cleaners with increased efficiency vacuum cleaner bags if no visible LBP dust or debris is present	Dry sweeping of surface dust and debris Shaking or beating of carpets and rugs
WALLS	Wet wipe wall completely with non-abrasive cloth Powdered, high-phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent, trisodium phosphate detergent, or lead-specific cleaning products	Steel wool, scouring pads, and abrasive cleaners Solvents that may dissolve paint
OTHER PAINTED SURFACES (Such as doors, baseboards, floors, window sills, and some children's toys)	Non-abrasive cloths and powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent, trisodium phosphate detergent, or lead-specific cleaning products	Abrasive cleaners and scouring pads Solvents cleaners that may dissolve paint Excessive rubbing of spots to remove them
DUSTING	Use normal, non-abrasive dusting cloths or dusters, and a dusting polish to reduce dust clouds	

For more information, contact the DEQ or the Parish Extension Home Economist at the County Agent's Office.

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